U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/576,174

Filed: March 16, 2007 Docket No.: 11348-019-999 CAM No.: 601909-999017

Response to Office Action Mailed May 21, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A writing instrument comprising:

a tubular body extending along a longitudinal axis between a rear end and a front end provided with an opening through which a writing tip is capable of protruding;

a lateral button having at least one actuation face oriented radially outward and at least one first cam arranged inside said body; and

a writing tip advancing mechanism comprising a movable member movable in a longitudinal direction in said body, the movable member having at least a first ramp inclined relative to the longitudinal axis,

wherein said lateral button being capable of remaining in a rest position in which the first cam is facing the first ramp,

wherein said lateral button being capable of making a first tilting movement toward the inside of said body during which the first cam interacts with the first ramp and the movable member makes a first movement,

wherein said lateral button has at least a second cam longitudinally distant from the first cam, and

wherein the movable member further comprises a bearing substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis that is adjacent to at least one second inclined ramp, the second cam resting on the bearing during the first tilting movement of said lateral button, and facing the second ramp at the end of the first tilting movement, said lateral button being capable of making a second tilting movement toward the inside of said body during which the second cam interacts with the second ramp and the movable member makes a second movement.

13. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 12, wherein said body has an abutment, and wherein the first cam has at least one contact point that is in

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contact against the abutment of said body during the second tilting movement of said lateral button.

- 14. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the ramps of the movable member has a height, measured in a radial direction, substantially equal to the internal space of said tubular body.
- 15. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 12, wherein said lateral button has, at the first and the second cams, a first and a second U-shaped cross section, the ends of the branches of the U-shaped cross section of the first and second cross sections forming the first and second cams.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 12, wherein the first ramp of the movable member is situated at the front end of said body and the second ramp is situated at the rear end.
- 17. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 12, wherein said advancing mechanism further comprises an elastic element which forces the movable member toward the rear end of said body, the incline of the first and second ramps being adapted so that the first and second movements are made toward the front end of said body.
- 18. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 17, wherein the writing tip is lead, and wherein said advancing mechanism further comprises a lead clamping chuck that is connected to the movable member.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 18, wherein the chuck is held closed under the action of at least one elastic element which forces the chuck and the movable member toward the rear end of said body.

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20. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 18, wherein the movable member has a central duct allowing at least one lead to pass through, and

wherein the first and second ramps are formed by a first and a second pair of inclined surfaces situated on either side of the central duct.

- 21. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 18, wherein a lead storage compartment is secured to the movable member and extends upward to a rear end provided with a rear button emerging from the rear end of said body.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The writing instrument according to claim 18, wherein a lead-guide tip is mounted so as to slide in the front end of said body between a retracted position and a protruding position, and wherein the first movement of the movable member is suitable for advancing and opening the chuck, and the second movement of the movable member is suitable for pushing the lead-guide tip into the protruding position.

23.-24. (Cancelled)